The Annenberg Institute for School Reform (AISR) is a national organization, headquartered at Brown University, that collaborates with school districts, communities, and other education stakeholders to improve the conditions and outcomes of urban public schools, especially those attended by traditionally underserved children. AISR’s vision is the transformation of traditional school systems into “smart education systems” that develop and integrate high-quality learning opportunities in all areas of students’ lives — at school, at home, and in the community. AISR conducts research; works with a variety of partners committed to educational improvement to build capacity in school districts and communities; and shares its work through print and web publications.

Established in 1993 by education reform leader Theodore (Ted) Sizer, the founder and chair of the then-Brown University-based Coalition for Essential Schools, the organization was renamed shortly thereafter to honor philanthropist, former diplomat and publisher Walter H. Annenberg, following the Annenberg Foundation’s $50-million donation to endow AISR. A University Corporation-appointed Board of Overseers, chaired by Brown’s president, governs the organization, which is one of the largest among the 40 programs, institutes and centers at Brown University. Michael Grady, Ed.D., is Interim Executive Director of the Institute; Warren Simmons, Ph.D., is Senior Fellow and the former executive director.

For more than two decades, AISR has been an influential national leader in public education reform. AISR’s research has provided an important evidence base to inform public discourse and decision making in a national climate too often driven by ideology. AISR has also regularly been sought out as a convener and technical...